

Dear Conference Call Participants,

Thank you for participating in the second National Conference Call to Discuss the Evaluation of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Model held on Wednesday, October 17, 2001. The focus of the conference call was to review progress to date regarding the development of the Environmental Justice (EJ) project case studies and to gain insight from participants on how initial findings can best be used. We found your suggestions most helpful and will once again be building off your advice to help us further refine and improve our product. In addition, we are grateful for your enthusiasm in support of the evaluation effort.

Comments made during the call focused on how the final report can best be used, how the final report can be made more useful, and how to best share lessons learned. Regarding the first topic, participants suggested that the report can best be used to 1) demonstrate that the interdisciplinary collaborative model is an effective way to address EJ issues; 2) illustrate the complexities inherent to implementing a partnership approach; 3) identify how each project came together; and 4) ensure that other newer projects can learn from the experiences gained by those implementing the first projects. On the topic of making the report more useful, comments included rearranging the report outline, adding a "Key themes and Recommendations" section, grouping the interviewees' comments according to stakeholder type, and emphasizing the uniqueness of each project. Finally, on how best to share lessons learned, participants' main suggestion focused on developing an interactive workshop that uses the evaluation results to work with communities addressing EJ issues.

We fully expect that the report will clearly describe the effect of collaborative partnerships at addressing EJ issues. In addition, every effort is being made to highlight the complexities inherent in implementing collaborative partnerships. Care is also being taken to ensure that each case study clearly indicates how the project emerged and the developmental stage of the project at the time in which interviews were conducted. To provide further clarification timelines and project logic frameworks may also be added. Furthermore every effort is being made to make certain that lessons learned from one project will be understandable and have immediate relevance for other communities involved in collaborative partnerships.

To improve the final report's utility, we now plan to expand our report outline and include a "Key Themes and Recommendations" section. However, at this time, we do not plan to categorize comments according to various stakeholder groups out of concerns over confidentiality.

To better share lessons learned, we strongly endorse the recommendation that results of the evaluation effort be transformed into an interactive training workshop and other interactive tools. Although such action must involve key support from EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, as a start, we are now talking with OEJ about how the evaluation results can be used at a session for the National Community Involvement Conference in June 2002.

Along with this letter, we have included for your review the conference call minutes, the revised evaluation/case study report outline, and the list of conference call participants. Please feel free to comment on any of these items. Send comments to Eric Marsh via email ([marsh.eric@epa.gov](mailto:marsh.eric@epa.gov)) or fax (202-260-1812) no later than Monday, January 7, 2002.

Once again, we appreciate your sincere interest and enthusiasm for this effort. Have a great holiday season.

Sincerely,

/s/

Katherine A. Dawes, Director  
Evaluation Support Division  
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